

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this because I'm deeply concerned about the recent decision by Sinclair Broadcasting Group (SBG) to require affiliates to preempt regularly scheduled programming to air "Stolen Honor: Wounds that Never Heal." I fully support the right of those who hold differing views to have their say; however, I take serious issue with doing so under the pretext of "news." One can't reasonably suggest that this documentary meets the standard of journalistic objectivity or accuracy any more than one could make the same claim about "Fahrenheit 9-11."

Last April, Sinclair forbade ABC affiliates from broadcasting the episode of "Nightline" devoted to reading the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq--because, according to SBG, the program was "politically motivated." From this, one can only conclude that reading the names of men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom is unfairly biased...but days before an incredibly close Presidential election, unfounded accusations of treason against one of the candidates is just fine. No matter what your personal political beliefs may be, this argument defies both logic and decency.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy--substantive news about issues that matter.

The actions of SBG illustrate why media ownership rules must not be weakened further...and why the license renewal process should require more than a simply returning a postcard.

Thank you.